

Facts for Socialists

Individual Enterprise in the Ascendant
According to the Census.

By F. Y. R. Gordon.



THE SOCIALISTS for the last dozen years have constantly asserted that the middle class was rapidly disappearing. They have said a thousand times that the commercial traveller would entirely disappear. It may be interesting to note that according to the United States Census Reports (see volume on Occupations) the number of commercial travellers in the United States was as follows:

1870	7,262
1880	28,158
1890	58,690
1900	92,936

The red flaggers also told us that the great department stores would shortly drive the little merchant to the wall and he too would disappear. Note therefore the following from the United States census showing the number of retail merchants:

1870	357,203
1880	479,439
1890	691,325
1900	855,197

Facts have little or nothing in common with the red flag propaganda. Now look at the farmers. The number of farm owners and part owners is given in the census as follows:

1880	2,984,206
1890	3,269,728
1900	3,712,408

Next consider the manufacturing plants:

1880	252,852
1890	355,405
1900	512,276

An increase of 44 percent since 1890.

The number of proprietors and firms operating manufacturing plants was 708,623, 95 percent of whom were actual wealth producers though never taken into account by the reds. There are 100,000 stockholders in the United States Steel Corporation of whom about 35,000 are employees.

There are 9000 stockholders in the Swift Beef company, of whom 4000 are employees. There are 7000 farmers who own stock in the Illinois Central railroad. Eighty percent of the stock of the great Santa Fe railroad is owned by the small stockholders. Nearly 6000 farmers own stock in the Boston & Maine railroad system. Forty-eight percent of the families of this nation own some real estate. Ninety-five percent of the real estate mortgages of this nation represent prosperity. That is, they represent a family that starting from nothing and is gradually paying for home.

Growth of Agriculture

Its Progress Demands Educated Men to
Secure the Best Results.

By L. H. Bailey.

ONE of the most significant signs of the times is the rise of the agricultural industries into commanding position and the awakening of a general interest in rural subjects.

Every one seems to be aware that agriculture is making great progress. Now, all progress in the arts and industries rests on knowledge and the imparting of knowledge; in this case, it rests very largely on the activities of experiment stations and colleges. The work of these institutions accumulating slowly and methodically, has leavened the lump. If there is an agricultural problem, these institutions are to make the heaviest contribution toward solving it. Now and then pieces of this great body of work are hit upon by a magazine writer as "discoveries" and he runs wild about them; but the real advance is the result of small accretions.

With all the awakened interest and the exploiting of individual instances, the townsman is not yet aware of the tremendous rise in the tone and efficiency of the entire agricultural industry, which may well be likened to the gradual elevation of a geological stratum of continental extent. At the same time, the agricultural population is retaining its old-time vigor, independence and native philosophy. The student who enters this field will most assuredly not succeed unless he has good talents and efficient training and properly estimates the problem; but it is nevertheless perfectly evident not only that an educated man can succeed in agricultural arts, but that in time this type of man will be the only one who can hope for the best results. —The Century.

Villainy a La Mode

By E. A. Ross.

PRIMITIVE-MINDED people abhor the wrong-doer, not from a sense of danger but out of sympathy with his victim. This is why our mobs lynch for murder, assault, rape, arson, wife beating, kidnapping and grave robbing, but pass over such impersonal offenses as speculation, adulteration, rebating, ballot fraud, bribery and grafting. The public, while less ferocious than the mob, is nearly as sentimental. It needs a victim to harrow up its feelings. Villainy must be staged with blue lights and slow music. The injury that is problematic, or general or that falls in undefined ways upon unknown persons, is resented feebly, or not at all. The fiend who should rack his victim with torments such as typhoid inflicts would be torn to pieces. The villain who should taint his enemy's cup with fever germs would stretch his arm. But the corrupt boss who, in order to extort fat contracts for his firm, holds up for a year the building of a filtration plant destined to deliver his city from the typhoid scourge, and thereby dooms twelve hundred of his townspeople to sink to the tomb through the flaming hell of fever comes off scathless. —The Atlantic.

"Backbone!"

By O. J. Marden.

HAVE'N'T you depended upon clothes, upon appearances, upon introductions, upon recommendation about long enough? Haven't you leaned about long enough on other things? Isn't it about time for you to call a halt, to tear off all masks, to discard everything you have been leaning on outside of yourself, and depend upon your own worth?

Haven't you been in doubt about yourself long enough? Haven't you had enough unfortunate experiences depending upon superficial, artificial, outside things to drive you home to the real power in yourself? Aren't you tired of leaning and borrowing and depending upon this thing and that thing which have failed you?

The man who learns to seek power within himself, who learns to rely upon himself, is never disappointed; but he always will be disappointed when he depends upon any outside help. There is one person in the world that will never fail you if you depend upon him, and are honest with him; and that is, yourself.

It is the self-reliant man that is in demand everywhere.—Success.

The Daily Slush.

Evelyn—Weren't you awfully embarrassed when they named you as a co-respondent in the Allingham divorce case?

Glady—Oh, no; I didn't mind it much. The papers managed to print quite a decent-looking picture of me.—Judge.

Tommy Gets Informed.

"Paw?"
"Yes, Tommy?"
"What is Roquefort?"
"Spoiled cheese, my son."
"And what is Limburger?"
"Spoiled Roquefort."—Judge.

Dye-making from coal tar is the healthiest trade in the world, as the tar is a tonic and a tissue builder. The average life of the tar worker is 50 years.



FOR THE Turkey Stuffing—A THANKSGIVING DAY STORY

It always made Ben feel solemn to watch the river in a storm. To-day it was gray and rough and noisy, and the few boats which went down toward Lake Huron pitched about so that their decks slanted first one way, then another, and their sides were coated with ice.

"Gran'ma, what day's to-day?" he asked at last, turning from the stormy river to glance about their warm, comfortable little room.

"Wednesday, Benny," answered the small old woman who crouched over the stove.

"Then to-morrow will be Thanksgiving day, and the Rosses are going to have a turkey," said Ben, excitedly.

"What are we going to have, gran'ma?"

Mrs. Moxon looked over her glasses at her grandson's small, thin figure, in his patched and faded clothes, and at his bright, eager face.

"Sonny, dear, what do you think gran'ma has for Thanksgiving?" she asked, gently.

The expectant look faded from Ben's face, and he winked hard to keep the tears from running over.

He did not need to be told how bare of dainties their cupboard was, for everything there he had brought with his own hands. Bacon and smoked fish enough for all winter were stored away; flour, potatoes, and a few other vegetables were there.

"Tell me about a real Thanksgiving dinner," the small boy begged, as the first disappointment had been bravely put away. Mrs. Moxon took off her spectacles, and looked back cautiously in her broken-rockered chair.

"I remember one Thanksgiving,

far down-stream for the boy to get the things." Then he raised his trumpet again.

"Say, kid, can you row that boat that's tied to your dock?"

"Yes, sir!"

"Well, you hurry out into the river, and I'll put off a float with some things for your Thanksgiving dinner. You're going to have some turkey for that stuffing."

You may be sure Ben lost no time in pushing the rowboat off into the stream, where the end of a plank and its delicious load were soon bobbing up and down on the water. How he did smack his lips when he lifted them into the boat, and how pleased he was for grand'ma!

"First the stuffing, and then the turkey! My, ain't I lucky?" He did not know that the captain had said he was plucky, and that luck is very apt to follow pluck. — Katherine Grace Hulber, in Youth's Companion.

Ben ran up the little hill to Mrs. Ross and borrowed her trumpet, or megaphone. One's voice sounds much louder when these are used, and they are to be found at every house on the shores of the St. Mary's, for the people on the boats and those on the land often want to say "Hello" to each other. It was all Ben could do to hold the great tin trumpet out straight, for it was nearly as long as he was.

"I'm waiting for dinner to cook," the boy shouted again, and this time the captain heard him.

"Going to have turkey, I suppose?" the captain asked.

"No, but we're going to have turkey stuffing," answered Ben, with pride.

"Turkey stuffing, but no turkey. If that isn't the best I ever heard!" The captain had dropped his trumpet, and doubled up with sudden laughter. Luckily, Ben did not hear.

"What else you going to have?" he called, when he had repeated the joke to those about him. "Mince pie without any mince?"

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